

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EA-13 IGA-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03

L-02 PRS-01 AID-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 EB-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-03 CCO-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 RSR-01 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8927

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T PARIS 9371

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID VS, VN

SUBJECT: EC AID TO INDOCHINA

REF: (A) STATE 60350, (B) PARIS 3976

1. BASED ON OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH QUAI OFFICIALS, IT APPEARS THAT GOF IS MOVING MORE DELIBERATELY ON BOTH QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH TWO VIET- NAMS AND ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THEM THAN IS CASE WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER EC STATES. THIS IS, IN PART,
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A FUNCTION OF PARIS' ROLE AS HOST FOR BOTH GVN- PRG BILATERAL TALKS AND US- DRV JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, AS WELL AS DESIRE TO WAIT UNTIL CLEARER PICTURE EMERGES OF CEASEFIRE SITUATION AND POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN SOUTH. GIVEN FOREGOING, AS WELL AS GOF PREDILECTION FOR SOME FORM OF NEUTRALIST COALITION GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH INCLUDING THIRD FORCE ELEMENTS, WE BELIEVE FRENCH WOULD LIKELY INTERPRET GVN INITIATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF PROSPECTIVE AID DONORS AS A DEVICE TO PREJUDGE, OR AT LEAST INFLUENCE, OUTCOME OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES.

2. THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT GOF, AND WE SUSPECT OTHER EC STATES AS WELL, SEE DRV AS ESTABLISHED ENTITY WITH WHICH IT CAN DEAL. IN THE SOUTH, REGARDLESS OF SITUATION ON THE GROUND, FRENCH PROBABLY WOULD NOT AGREE THAT " FUTURE IS CLEAR ENOUGH TO ALLOW FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM." (REF A)

3. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, FRENCH REACTION TO POSSIBLE GVN PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF POTENTIAL DONOR STATES LIKELY TO BE ADVERSELY INFLUENCED BY TWO ADDITIONAL FACTORS: A) TIMING PROBABLY WOULD BE A PROBLEM SINCE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN MIDST OF ORGANIZING ITSELF AND INCOMING FOREIGN MINISTER WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE TIME TO RE- EXAMINE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PLANS OF EX- FONMIN SCHUMANN; AND B) GOF HAS INDICATED IT PLANS TO GIVE GREATER WEIGHT TO BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN ITS AID TO INDOCHINA (REF B), PROBABLY AS A MEANS OF INCREASING ITS POLITICAL LEVERAGE IN THE AREA. ALTHOUGH AN EC FRAMEWORK FOR COORDINATING MULTILATERAL AID MIGHT APPEAL TO FRENCH-- IN VIEW OF THEIR WELL- KNOWN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THIS EUROPEAN FORUM--, WE SUSPECT GOF WOULD PREFER BILATERAL APPROACH.

4. IN CONCLUSION, WE BELIEVE THAT, AT THIS POINT, OUR EFFORTS AND THOSE OF GVN MIGHT MORE PROFITABLY BE DIRECTED AT URGING A BALANCED GOF APPROACH TO BILATERAL AID FOR BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIET- NAM, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO INSURE COMPATIBILITY OF FRENCH AID TO SAIGON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AID PROGRAMS TO GVN. AT SAME TIME, DOOR SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN FOR FRENCH TO JOIN FUTURE MULTILATERAL AID PROGRAMS IN THE SOUTH AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION THERE DEVELOPS.
IRWIN

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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